

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 7-11, 1937. Olin West, M. D., 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, secretary.

California Medical Association, Del Monte, May 2-5, 1937. F. C. Warnshuis, M. D., 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, secretary.

American College of Surgeons, Philadelphia, October 19-23, George W. Crile, M. D., 40 East Erie Street, Chicago, Chairman, Board of Regents.

American Public Health Association, New Orleans, October 20-23. Reginald M. Atwater, M. D., 50 West Fifth Street, New York, executive secretary.

Interstate Postgraduate Medical Association of North America, St. Paul, October 12-16. W. B. Peck, M. D., 27 East Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois, managing director.

Oregon State Medical Society, The Dalles, October 8-10. Morris L. Bridgeman, M. D., 1020 S. W. Taylor Street, Portland, secretary.

Medical Broadcasts*

The *American Medical Association* broadcasts have been discontinued for the summer months. A new series is under consideration for the autumn and winter of 1936-1937.

San Francisco County Medical Society.—The radio broadcast program for the San Francisco County Medical Society for the month of October is as follows:

Tuesday, October 6—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, October 13—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, October 20—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, October 27—KYA, 6 p. m.

Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of October is as follows:

Saturday, October 3—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 3—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, October 6—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road to Health.
Saturday, October 10—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 10—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, October 13—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 17—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 17—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, October 20—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 24—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 24—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, October 27—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 31—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, October 31—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Air Line Transportation for Infants.—Transportation of infants by air is increasing, the latest example being the case of three months old Martin Thomas, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Ferwerda of the Naval Hospital at the Navy Yard in Brooklyn.

A husky, eight-pound boy, only three months old, he was the youngest, smallest child ever to fly from coast to coast without its parents, according to Air Line officials.

Los Angeles County Hospital.—Item from the Los Angeles *Herald-Express* (September 3):

"Le Roy R. Bruce, assistant superintendent of county charities for the last three years, today was appointed assistant executive superintendent of General Hospital at a salary of \$5,000 per year by Rex Thomson, county superintendent of charities. The appointment was approved by the Civil Service Commission.

"Bruce will succeed G. W. Olson, who recently submitted his resignation, to become effective October 1. Olson will take over the post of superintendent at the Queen of the Angels Hospital. Before entering county service, Bruce was deputy director of state institutions of California for four years."

Hearing Tests Aid Classroom Work at State University.—In many instances, suspected contrariness, day dreaming, or plain laziness are being eliminated at the University of California as the causes of lack of concentration and lax study habits among students. A health survey made by the Cowell Memorial Hospital on the University campus has determined that physical defects, combined with sensitiveness in a number of instances are the real reasons for low grades, and there is an immediate improvement where these defects are corrected or properly understood.

A test of 4,003 students in the hospital determined that no less than 587 were suffering from defects of hearing which could have affected their scholastic work. Of the latter number, 308 were men and 279 women. In the total group, 101 were suffering the loss of twelve or more sense units out of a possible 100 such units. . . .

State Health Officers' Meeting.—The League of California Municipalities held its annual convention on September 9 and 10 in the City of Santa Monica. The Health Officers' Section had meetings on both days. Among the papers presented by members of the medical profession were the following:

President's Address—Dr. C. M. Burchfiel, Santa Clara County Health Officer.

Public Health in California—Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director, California State Department of Public Health.

The Social Security Act in Relation to the Health Department—Surgeon Fred T. Foard, United States Public Health Service.

The Next Steps in Public Health—Dr. George Parrish, Los Angeles City Health Officer. Dr. George H. Kress, Member, California State Board of Public Health, discussor.

Veneral Diseases—Dr. George M. Stevens, Epidemiologist, Los Angeles City Health Department. Dr. Lee A. Stone, Madera County Health Officer, discussor.

The Use of Immunobiologic Principles in the Prevention and Control of Civilization Diseases—Dr. Karl F. Meyer, Director, Hooper Foundation for Medical Research.

A Review of Twenty Years' Experience in County Health Work—Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, Los Angeles County Health Officer.

An Original Method for Differentiation of Staphylococci Involved in Food Poisoning—Dr. R. V. Stone, Director, Bureau of Laboratories, Los Angeles County

Health Department. Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Chief, Division of Laboratories, State Department of Public Health, discussor.

The Epidemiology of Tuberculosis—The Health Officer's Opportunity—Dr. Reginald H. Smart, Consultant on Tuberculosis, Los Angeles County Health Department. Dr. K. H. Sutherland, Orange County Health Officer, discussor.

On Thursday the banquet of the Health Officers' Section was held at the Grand Hotel, Dr. George H. Kress acting as toastmaster. The address of the evening was made by Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the University of California, who spoke on the subject, "The State University in Relation to the Public Health."

New York Automobile Toll Reduced.*—The number of motor vehicle accidents and the number of persons killed and injured were reduced in the first six months of 1936, as compared with the corresponding period of 1935, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles recently reported. The number of accidents was 34,159, compared with 35,503; the number of persons killed 1,047, compared with 1,199, and the number injured 42,867, compared with 44,609. Of the accidents, 16,159 were collisions with pedestrians, 13,031 collisions with other cars. Of 47,418 motorists involved, 295 were listed as intoxicated and 32 as having a physical defect. Of 16,640 pedestrians involved, 470 were said to have been intoxicated, 97 had physical defects and 819 were confused by traffic.—*J. A. M. A.*, September 19, 1936.

Traffic Kills Seven in Los Angeles.*—Under the above caption, the Los Angeles *Herald-Express* of Monday, September 21, 1936, printed the following item:

"Seven more persons were killed and scores injured in traffic accidents reported throughout the county during the past twenty-four hours and a dozen drivers who figured in collisions were arrested on suspicion of drunk driving.

"Official records in the coroner's office today disclosed the distressing fact that 689 persons have lost their lives in traffic accidents in Los Angeles County since the first of the year. Of this number, 352 were killed in the city. Injuries in the city proper to date total 11,050. In the county, 2,697 persons have been injured so far this year."

Summary of Mortality from Automobile Accidents*. The United States Bureau of the Census announces that during the four weeks ending August 29, 1936, eighty-six large cities in the United States reported 665 deaths from automobile accidents. This number (665) compares with 611 deaths during the four weeks ending August 31, 1935. Most of these deaths were the result of accidents which occurred within the corporate limits of the city, although some accidents occurred outside of the city limits.

For comparison, the number of deaths due to automobile accidents within city limits is desirable. Such figures are available for the four-week period ending August 29, 1936, and for the corresponding four-week period of 1935 for all of the eighty-six cities, the four-week figure in 1936 being 484 as contrasted with 441 for the corresponding four weeks in 1935.

For the 52-week periods August 29, 1936 and August 31, 1935, the totals for the cities were respectively 8,436 and 8,997, which indicate a recent rate of 22.7 per 100,000 population as against an earlier rate of 24.1 or a decrease of 6 per cent in the rate during the year.

Four cities reported no deaths from automobile accidents for the last four weeks, and one city reported no deaths from automobile accidents for the corresponding period of 1935.

For the last four-week period reports as to whether deaths occurred from automobile accidents within city limits or outside were received from all of the eighty-six cities reported. In these cities in this four-week period, the total number of deaths from automobile accidents was 665, but only 484 of these were due to accidents within city limits.

Health Exhibit This Year in Wide Range of Health Work.—The *Ohio Health News* states:

"This year's health exhibit at the Ohio State Fair will provide complete coverage of the activities of the State Department of Health, with special emphasis on the broader scope of the work in maternal and child hygiene, milk sanitation, occupational diseases, and public health nursing. All divisions will be represented in the array of charts, graphs and statistical tables, and other features will be exemplified in models, equipment, and photographic displays. An attractive gallery of child hygiene posters has been provided. Samples of literature and lists for visitors to check their needs will be at hand.

The exhibit will be housed in a new location, as last year's site was not available.

Urologic Clinic Before Alameda Society.—Dr. Elmer Hess, one of the country's outstanding urologists, on Thursday, August 13, gave a very interesting clinic on urologic surgery to the Alameda County Medical Society.

American Medical Association Conference of State Association Secretaries and Editors.—The annual conference of state medical association secretaries and editors will be held in Chicago on Monday and Tuesday, November 16 and 17, 1936. The secretary of the American Medical Association has mailed notice of the meeting to all state medical associations.

State University and Stanford in New Drive Against Tuberculosis.—A ten-year program to end any incidence of tuberculosis that may be found in the student bodies of the University of California and Stanford University, and to give impetus to the general drive against the "white plague" in the State, has just been announced by Dr. R. T. Legge, University of California physician, and head of the Cowell Memorial Hospital on the University of California campus.

The plan, now in active operation, includes the examination of every freshman student through intradermal, x-ray, or fluoroscope test for indications of tuberculosis in any and every form. This is in addition to the regular physical examination given each student. Those entrants having active cases of tuberculosis are hospitalized, as usual, while the quiescent or arrested cases are examined periodically, their contacts closely watched, and a regimen of medical treatment laid out for them.

An examination of 1,829 new students on the Berkeley campus at the time the plan was inaugurated, revealed an extremely low incidence of cases of present and suspected activity, there being but three active histories possible, but the number of those disclosing healed lesions was 433. Of the cases of all classifications detected, 35 per cent were men and 28 per cent women. . . .

University of California Experiments Show Food Extract May Cause Cataracts.—The baffling problems surrounding the cause of cataracts in the eye may be a step nearer solution as a result of experiments carried on by Dr. Agnes Fay Morgan, chairman of the Department of Household Science, and Bessie B. Cook, graduate student, in the University of California. In human subjects the drug dinitrophenol, which is presumed to have some efficacy as a fat reducer, is also presumed to produce cataracts. Experiments on subjects other than human, made by the University, now tend to further the claim that certain dietary elements may also be responsible, and that the element of light may not be as important a cataract producer as it has been figured in the past.

In the experiments, conducted by Doctor Morgan and her associate, it was shown that a diet running high in milk sugar or lactose tended to produce cataracts. In a report to the Society for Experimental Biology, they state:

"The delay in, or interference with complete absorption accompanying the presence of large amounts of lactose or galactose in the intestine, and the frequent gastrointestinal absorption difficulties in clinical conditions associated with vitamin G deficiency, for example, pellagra, pernicious anemia, and sprue, offer a possible common attack upon the problem. The present study was planned to test the bearing of such absorption disturbances upon the production of cataract, of dermatitis and of growth abnormality. . . .

* See also editorial comment in this issue (page 307).

Californian Goes to Queens Hospital, Honolulu.—News item from the Los Angeles *Herald-Express*:

G. W. Olson, Aide at Los Angeles Hospital Takes Hawaii Post

"Recognized as one of America's leading authorities on hospital management, construction and maintenance, G. W. Olson, assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles General Hospital, today accepted an offer to become the superintendent of the Queens Hospital in Honolulu.

"Olson today tendered his resignation, to take effect October 1, when he expects to leave for his new post. He has been assistant superintendent of the institution since 1932.

"Prior to that he was superintendent of the California Hospital, in the construction of which he was active. He has been identified with hospitals in executive capacities for twenty-five years."

On Tuesday noon, September 15, members of the Swedish and Nordic clubs of Los Angeles and the members of the attending staff of the California Hospital gave a luncheon in honor of Mr. Olson at the University Club of Los Angeles, Mr. Ritz Heerman presiding as toast-master.

On behalf of the members of the attending and administrative staffs of the California Hospital, Dr. George H. Kress presented to Mr. Olson two traveling cases.

The Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association.—The American Public Health Association will hold its sixty-fifth annual meeting in New Orleans, October 20-23.

More than one hundred separate scientific sessions are listed, engaging upward of three hundred speakers. There are highly specialized programs designed to solve current problems in the fields of administration, nursing, school health work, health education, sanitary engineering, vital statistics, laboratory practice, child hygiene, industrial hygiene, epidemiology. There are programs covering overlapping interests which involve several groups of specialists who come together in joint meetings for common discussion. There are programs broad enough in scope and of sufficient importance to warrant the attendance of the entire Association in general sessions.

Advances in public health is one such general session. Recent advances in administrative technique, in the control of pneumonia, in engineering practice, in health education methods, in laboratory methods, and housing as a public health problem will be presented by qualified experts.

Other general sessions will deal with diphtheria immunization, mental hygiene, mosquito-borne diseases, and professional education.

A symposium on syphilis is featured.

Other symposia include industrial sanitation, milk and dairy products, infant and maternal mortality, enteric fevers, nutritional problems, registration of births and deaths, care of communicable disease in the home, food poisoning, sanitation of eating utensils, intestinal parasites, school-health education, school nursing, business aspects of the health department, and publicity.

The program of the sixty-fifth annual meeting includes the meetings of a number of related organizations which regularly choose the same convention site and dates. They are: The American Association of School Physicians, the Conference of State Laboratory Directors, the Conference of State Sanitary Engineers, the Association of Women in Public Health, Delta Omega, National Committee of Health Council Executives, the State Registration Executives, and the International Society of Medical Health Officers.

On the invitation of the Cuban Government and Florida health authorities, the Association will sponsor an all-expense postconvention tour to Havana via Florida by train, motor, and steamer. Delegates are invited to join the tour.

The American Public Health Association offers a copy of the program, which includes hotel and railroad information, a summary of the postconvention tour and other details concerning the annual meeting to those who write to the Association's office, 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York City.

Donation of Volumes on Anesthesia to University of California Library.—Dr. C. D. Leake, librarian and professor of pharmacology of the University of California Medical School, has given a special collection to the Crummer Medical History Room of items relating to the history of anesthesia. These range from sixteenth century publications of Valerius Cordus (1515-1544), who discovered ether, to autographed signed letters from Dr. Carl Koller, who introduced local anesthesia in 1884. There is included in the collection inscribed volumes of Humphrey Davy and Horace Wells, who discovered the anesthetic properties of nitrous oxid, pamphlets and books dealing with Morton, Long, and Jackson's introduction of ether, material relating to Simpson's work on chloroform, Claude Bernard's, John Snow's, Richardson's and Gwathmey's general work on anesthesia, and correspondence, manuscripts and original documents concerned with recent developments in anesthesia, including ethylene, "amytal," "avertin," "evipal," cyclopropane, divinyl oxid, and Water's carbon dioxid absorption technique, preoperative medication, and the prevention of local anesthetic toxicity. This collection is particularly interesting because of its relation to the scientific work on anesthesia which has been conducted for the past eight years in the pharmacological laboratory of the School.

Recent deposits in the Crummer Medical History Room include a set of diplomas from Dr. Elizabeth Davis from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in the early part of the nineteenth century.

First Transparent Woman.—Dr. Dean De Witt Lewis, famous surgeon-in-chief of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, recently unveiled the Camp Transparent Woman before a distinguished gathering of prominent medical authorities, noted scientists and leading public health officials. S. H. Camp, president, S. H. Camp & Company, Jackson, Michigan, brought the Transparent Woman to the United States as his contribution to public health education.

The Camp Transparent Woman is the first and only one in the world, and will shortly leave the New York Museum of Science and Industry for a nation-wide public health educational tour of one hundred cities which is expected to last more than two years. It will be accompanied by a doctor-lecturer, who will introduce the exhibit to the profession, scientists, and public health officers nationally, and to the general public in a series of lectures to which admission will be free. At the close of the tour it will be given to some prominent medical school or museum for permanent exhibition.

William F. Snow, M. D., general director of the American Social Hygiene Association, lecturer of the Columbia University, Teachers' College, formerly president of the National Health Council and health officer of the State of California, stated in regard to the Transparent Woman:

There is a great need in this country for more health education through visualizing the essential structures and functions of the human body.

Every man, woman, and child should understand the body as a biologic machine and how to run it.

This transparent life-size figure is a splendid teaching model for giving the public quickly and clearly a knowledge of all the organs and their relations, similar to the knowledge gained from visiting a factory and seeing all the parts of an automobile demonstrated. It is by such methods that the people are prepared for subsequent demonstrations and instruction in what to do to conserve health or to assist the physician whom they consult in efforts to regain their health.

I hope this is the beginning of many coöperative activities of science and industry for promoting health and preventing disease.

The International College of Surgeons.—The establishment of Colleges of Surgeons in the principal countries of the world has resulted in a higher standardization of surgery. Not only has it stimulated surgeons to strive for a higher goal, particularly the younger man, but it has also raised the standards of hospitals until it has eliminated a horror against hospitals which was universal for so many years.

It is timely for an International College of Surgeons to be formed. The International Surgical Society has been

in existence for some years. It is a highly respected organization, limited in membership, and under the able leadership of Doctor Mayer of Holland has done good work. But it has made no attempt to broaden its field. The International College of Surgeons, however, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, will open its doors to all reputable surgeons, of all countries, who can pass the severe test examination or who, because of outstanding ability, are recognized as of sufficient eminence to be appointed without examination.

Professor Arnold Jirasek of Czechoslovakia was recently appointed president. Professor Albert Jentzer of Geneva was appointed secretary-treasurer general for Europe. We are happy to state that the appointment of director-general was tendered to Dr. H. Lyons Hunt of New York City, who for years held the same position with the American Medical Editors and Authors' Association.

Naturally, everyone is interested in knowing who, of American surgeons, have already been chosen for Fellowship. For obvious reasons it would be untimely to mention them here. A booklet of their names, addresses, and hospital affiliations has already been prepared.

The number of regents and appointed Fellows throughout the world is limited to one thousand. In the list of American and Canadian surgeons recently sent out, are the names of a few hundred of the most prominent surgeons on this continent. If the same intelligence is used for all honorary appointments, the College will have a nucleus of the greatest men in surgery in the whole world.

The creation of an organization of this kind was bound to meet with a certain amount of criticism. We are not unmindful that the American College of Surgeons had to combat such criticism in its formative years. The answer—the acceptance of Fellowship by the outstanding surgeons of this country and Canada. The College must stand or fall by showing its need, by having on its roster those men in surgery who have always had the highest ideals and who have the courage and leadership ability to make a success of any undertaking to which they have lent their names. Naturally, the administration of such an organization must be placed in the capable hands of men who have vision, who are unbiased and who will work with an idealism which will make the College respected. We feel that a right start has been made. The future will tell the rest of the story.

LETTERS

Concerning annual training course for Medical Department Reservists of the Army and Navy.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH CORPS AREA
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON

Omaha, Nebraska,
September 1, 1936.

To the Editor:—Inclosed herewith is a notice which is being sent to all reserve officers in this corps area announcing the next, or eighth, annual inactive duty training period to be held at the Mayo Clinic for reserve officers of the Army and Navy.

In past years we have had a number of applicants who had seen notices in your journal or in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

We should be very glad indeed to have you use this data as a news item or otherwise, as you see fit.

KENT NELSON,
Colonel, Medical Corps, Surgeon.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH CORPS AREA
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON

Omaha, Nebraska,
August 12, 1936.

Surg. 353 or (Mayo Foundation) JRH 4000.

Subject: Medico-Military Inactive Duty Training, Mayo Foundation.

To Medical Department Reserve Officers.

1. The eighth annual training course for Medical Department Reservists of the Army and Navy will be held

at the Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota, from October 4 to 17, 1936.

2. This training course was first inaugurated by the Seventh Corps Area at the request of the Mayo Foundation to give training in military medicine to the younger medical men connected with the Foundation. Other reserve officers requested permission to enroll and to take advantage of the opportunity to attend clinical presentations during the morning hours. Such permission was granted and such attendance has become so increasingly popular that it is now necessary to limit the enrollment.

3. The program will follow the plan of the past years. The morning hours will be devoted entirely to professional work in special clinics and study groups. Officers in attendance may select the course they wish to follow from the wide variety of presentations offered. The afternoons and evenings will be devoted to a medico-military program under the direction of the surgeon of the Seventh Corps Area (Army) and the surgeon of the Ninth Naval District (Navy).

4. This training is on an inactive duty status and is without expense to the Government. Enrollment is open to all Army and Navy reservists of the Medical Departments in good standing. Application should be submitted to the surgeon of the Seventh Corps Area, Omaha, Nebraska, or the surgeon, Ninth Naval District, Great Lakes, Illinois. Enrollment is limited to two hundred.

5. The surgeons-general of the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service have signified their desire to attend at least a portion of the course.

KENT NELSON,
Colonel, Medical Corps, Surgeon.

Concerning treatment of dog bites.

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

To the Editor:—I am enclosing copy of a letter to Mr. Albert Payson Terhune, relative to an article appearing in the *Reader's Digest*, August, 1936, entitled "Beware of the Dog." I thought this would be of interest to you.

Sincerely,
J. C. GEIGER, M. D., Director.

September 14, 1936.

Mr. Albert Payson Terhune,
c/o Readers' Digest Association,
Pleasantville, New York.

Dear Mr. Terhune:

I am in receipt of a copy of your article "Beware of the Dog," as published in the *Readers' Digest*. It was sent to me by a young woman dog owner, who was formerly a student of science.

Although we agree with your praises of the animal, the statement discussing the possibilities of rabies infection is perhaps misleading. In many communities a real hazard is present in each dog bite due to the endemicity of rabies. Fortunately this condition does not exist in New York City or in San Francisco. It does, however, even today, exist in many other localities.

Furthermore, your advice "to paint the wound with carbolic acid instead of iodine" is rather poor, as the former is quite a real escharotic and dangerous in the hands of the inexperienced, while both are useless in the treatment of rabies. Fuming nitric acid is usually used by the medical profession. Better advice would be to have a physician take charge of the treatment.

Trusting you will understand my motive in writing and assuring you we have enjoyed many of your stories, I am

Cordially yours,
J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,
Director of Public Health.

Concerning Proposition 2 on November ballot.

September 14, 1936.

The Members of the Medical Profession, Addressed.

Dear Doctors:—California physicians are hard hit by the new State tax on personal incomes. It is a bad tax for everyone; but the burden falls heaviest on those whose